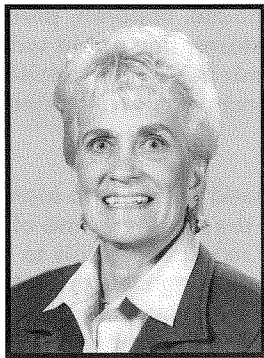


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



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PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN FROM INAPPROPRIATE ELECTRONIC MESSAGES

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) would like to remind parents to guard their children from unwanted and inappropriate electronic messages by visiting the Protect MI Child Registry website at Michigan.gov/protectmichild. Children are routinely using computers, both at home and at school, leaving them vulnerable to receiving messages that promote illegal products. The online registry is free and allows parents to register their children's e-mail addresses, instant messaging IDs and mobile text messages as "contact points." Registered users are protected by law from receiving messages that promote products or services legally prohibited for children, such as pornography, tobacco, gambling, alcohol and drugs. Once registered, senders of prohibited messages have 30 days to remove the registered contact point from their electronic mailing lists. The Protect MI Child Registry also allows receivers of prohibited messages to file complaints through the Michigan Attorney General's office. Register today to protect your children from unwanted electronic messages.

DID YOU KNOW? To date, parents have registered over 120,000 electronic devices on Michigan's Protect MI Child Registry.

OVARIAN AND GYNECOLOGIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH September is both Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month, or GCAM. Women should use this month as a reminder to educate themselves about prevention, early detection and treatment of all gynecologic cancers as every seven minutes a woman is diagnosed with a type of this cancer. The Gynecologic Cancer Foundation suggests four steps women can take in honor of GCAM: Get to know family history, Conduct a cancer risk assessment online at www.wcn.org, Ask questions to be educated about gynecologic cancer and Make an appointment for an annual gynecologic exam and Pap test. For more information about gynecologic cancers and prevention tips, visit the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation website at www.hopeguide.org.

FREE BOOKLETS HELP PLAN FOR PEACE OF MIND It is never too early to start thinking about writing a will. Creating a will protects our loved ones from having to guess what our desires would have been and allows for our wishes to be honored. Without a will, a deceased person is considered "intestate" and their possessions will be distributed according to law, with the State of Michigan determining who the person's heirs are—generally the spouse, children, parents, brothers/sisters, etc. *Planning for Your Peace of Mind* is a free publication that provides basic information about writing a will and creating advanced directives for health care. It also includes forms for implementing your health care decisions, recording personal and legal information and notifying your loved ones where important documents are located. To request a copy of this publication, please contact my office.

NEW LAW CHANGES SAFETY DRILLS IN SCHOOLS The Michigan Legislature recently passed two bills to increase school safety awareness during a time of emergency. Public Acts 187 and 337 of 2006 change the number, time of day and type of the required safety drills school districts must administer. Previously, Michigan law required schools to hold eight fire drills and two tornado drills throughout the school year. These drills usually took place during classroom time. However, with improved fire suppression equipment in schools making fires less likely to occur and increasing concerns of school violence and terrorist attacks, parents and educators felt safety drills needed to be updated. In an effort to better prepare students and teachers, the new laws require schools to decrease the number of fire drills to six per year, add two lockdown drills and conduct some of the drills during recess, lunch or other times when students are not in the classroom.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail,
please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov